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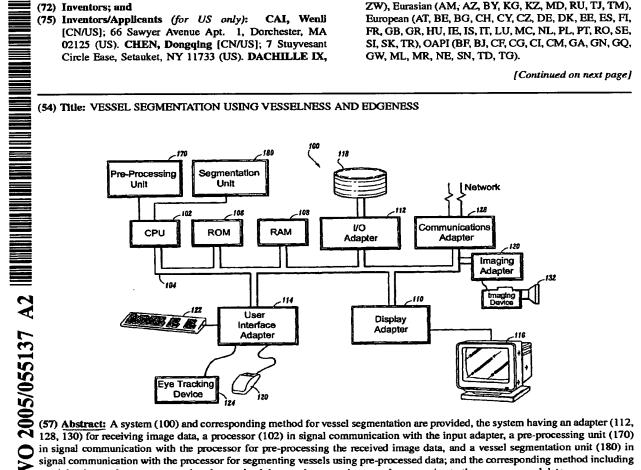
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in signal communication with the processor for pre-processing the received image data, and a vessel segmentation unit (180) in signal communication with the processor for segmenting vessels using pre-processed data; and the corresponding method including receiving image data, pre-processing the received data, and segmenting vessels responsive to the pre-processed data.